

someone to join a gang; he had come to her in search of help and hope. Ms. Garabed immediately jumped into action with faith and a vision for the community. Without a building, program or money, she started a summer program for children on the church lawn.

Ms. Garabed worked tirelessly and continued to knock on doors that remained closed for many years. She was determined to gain support and cultivate good will for this young boy and many others like him. She found a few volunteers that were willing to share their time, skills and talent to replace their violent activities with role models and productive programs. Over the years, the original summer program grew into Stone Soup Fresno, a multi-million dollar community center, offering health services, education, cultural preservation and leadership development.

Stone Soup Fresno, under Ms. Garabed's leadership, has impacted a number of lives. The literacy rate of almost one thousand children served by the organization has shown dramatic improvement, based on pre-post test scores from standardized tests. More than one hundred and twenty young leaders from the neighborhood have graduated from the Stone Soup's leadership program, increasing leadership in the community. There are two hundred new Hmong refugee families in the process of becoming new Americans who have participated in civic activities through Stone Soup. Ms. Garabed also helps to empower young Hmong women to become advocates in their community.

Since the conception of Stone Soup Fresno, Ms. Garabed has been recognized for the exemplary work she does. The organization has received the "Presidential Points of Light Award", "Distinguished Public Service Award" from Delta Gamma Chi State chapter, the Fresno Police Department's "Outstanding Citizen Award", "Temple Beth Israel Social Action Award", "Spirit Award" from the Volunteer Bureau, and "Leadership Award" from the Central California Forum on Refugee Affairs. HUD has recognized Stone Soup's stewardship as a "Best Practice" in developing the community center.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Kathleen Garabed upon her dedicated service to, and retirement from, Stone Soup Fresno. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Ms. Garabed many years of continued success.

COMMENDING MAYOR RICHARD  
ROY MICHEL

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2010

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to commend Mayor Richard Roy Michel, who has devoted over 28 years to serving Marksville, La.

Michel was Marksville High School's valedictorian in 1950. He received his B.S. degree in 1953 from Louisiana State University (LSU) of Baton Rouge, and continued his education at LSU Medical School in New Orleans graduating in 1957.

After marrying the former Margaret Bennett in 1956, Michel served his country in the U.S. Air Force from 1958 to 1960. He was a cap-

tain and head of the OB GYN medical division at Robins Air Force Base in Georgia. He also worked as the Assistant Hospital Administrator.

In 1960, Michel returned to his hometown to practice medicine at Marksville Hospital where he continues to work today.

For nearly three decades, Michel has been a businessman, politician, cattleman, and the Marksville Mayor. He is credited with turning Marksville from a town to a city by his notable undertakings. He was instrumental in encouraging the expansion of the Super Wal-Mart and assisting the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe in establishing the Paragon Casino. In addition, the Marksville City Hall, Police Station, Fire Station, City Courtroom and Marksville Water System buildings were constructed under his leadership as mayor.

Among his impressive list of endeavors, Michel served as a charter member of the American Academy of Family Practice, board member of the Council on Aging, Cottonport Bank, Airport Authority and Marksville Chamber of Commerce. In addition, he was the first president of the Avoyelles Mayor's Association and the first chief of staff at Avoyelles Hospital.

Beyond his professional career, Michel and his wife have two daughters, Margaret Suzone Alfred and Donna Renee Lemoine, two granddaughters, one grandson and one great-granddaughter.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mayor Richard Roy Michel. His unwavering commitment and compassionate service to the Marksville community deserve our gratitude.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE VILLAGE OF ODIN

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2010

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the village of Odin, Illinois, as they celebrate their 150th anniversary.

The village was founded in 1860 near the construction of the Atlantic, Mississippi and Ohio Railroad and the Illinois Central Railroad by Thomas Deadmond, Silas Barr, Samuel McClelland, James Adams, Thomas Pigg and John Hill. The strong character, respect and honesty possessed by these founding fathers are traits still held by Odin's citizens today.

The village of Odin has made a significant impact in the history of Illinois, despite its small size. This thriving mining community has supplied coal that powers the state of Illinois and specifically University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. It has also produced teachers, doctors, attorneys and leaders benefiting both the village and the state.

I would like to congratulate the village of Odin and all of its citizens as they mark 150 years of accomplishments and wish them continued success and prosperity in the years to come.

HONORING THE NAACP ON ITS  
101ST ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 242, to honor and praise the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on its 101st Anniversary. The NAACP was founded in New York City on February 12, 1909, because of America's pressing need for a large, coordinated civil rights organization. Today, the NAACP holds true to its initial values.

The objectives of the NAACP are:

To ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of all citizens;

To achieve equality of rights and eliminate race prejudice among the citizens of the United States;

To remove all barriers of racial discrimination through democratic processes;

To seek enactment and enforcement of federal, state, and local laws securing civil rights;

To inform the public of the adverse effects of racial discrimination and to seek its elimination; and

To educate persons as to their constitutional rights and to take all lawful action to secure the exercise thereof, and to take any other lawful action in furtherance of these objectives, consistent with the NAACP's Articles of Incorporation and this Constitution.

For 101 years the NAACP has remained committed to ensuring the political, educational, social and economic equality of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination. The organization was originally founded out of the dire need for civil rights among African Americans in the United States. Today however, the NAACP is determined to advance the cause of civil rights not only for African Americans, but for all American people, regardless of color.

The NAACP has aided in achieving the passage of several important pieces of legislation throughout their 101-year existence. These include the Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Fair Housing Act. The NAACP has also influenced several groundbreaking legal cases that have advanced the causes of civil rights in our nation, such as the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education case. The NAACP has and continues to serve as a beacon to those who want to make a difference. They have proven that progress can be made in the face of oppression through non-violence and political action.

The NAACP claims over 360,000 members and it continues to grow. Heading into its second century of service, the NAACP is focused on disparities in economics, health care, education, voter empowerment and the criminal justice system as is also continues its role as a legal advocate for civil rights issues.

The organization remains just as committed today to continuing the fight for political, social, educational and racial equality as it was over a century ago when it was first conceived. For this reason that I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 242.